'S WEEKLY REVIEW

ays Prevent Further Im-provement in Trade. WAIT FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Industries Have Gained in Workures, They Are Wai ing for Comrate Gain in Demand - The Wheat et Weakened by Bearish Foreign and Large Western Receipts-

Output for the Month of December. York, Dec. 14,-R. G. Dun & seekly review of trade says; The tion of congress put off further ment until the new year. While ies havegained in working force, re waiting for commensurate n demand, and meanwhile are to clear away embarrassments strict them. The wheat mars weakened, with less gloomy ram other countries, and larger a receipts, though only 3,691,374 , against 6,003,404 bushels last Disappointment about the break s may help to increase receipts. atic experts were but 2,755,651 flour included, and for two have been but 4,748,118 bushels, 4172,445 bushels last year. Panatches show that exports conery heavy, and about 300,000 tons vallable from California. The has declined 114 cents, and the s in demand for flour with high is has closed nearly all the Su-

uluth and many of the other tern mills. Cotton Coming Stendily, here declined 3-16 cent. all sorts of stories that the been nearly marketed it concome forward steadily. With 00,000 bales in sight already, estimates based on governrts that the yield is 8,300,000 less, which would leave but to come forward in eight and three weeks. When the report first came there was a yers; a few minutes turned ent, and a rapid decline fol-The iron output for December 23 tons weekly, against 124,077 and 216,797 a, year ago, and unks reported were 31,901 tons nan Nov. 1, but these do not nocks of the great steel com-The industry is for the time gel by uncertainty regarding The formal gel of the Bellaire company be billet pool, but a meeting is n to construct it, if possible.

nakers also meet this week , if they can, their compact, test mil workers will meet with the prospect that one imcern will go out, and that are kept together prices will ematerially reduced. The bar a scarcely pretends to conwhich are slightly lower k and the rupture of the nail for the time left the har ire nalls about \$1.50 at Pittsth extra charges on ordinary als averaging 12 cents, against ast month, with extras av-

Trading Must Be Expected.

he future influence of these as is better defined narrow must be expected, and Besseand gray forge are slightly. nor metals are generally tin at \$12.50, copper at 1114 and lead at \$2.95. Alumieen reduced from 50 to 37 nguts, ton lots, and 65 to 53 rois, production having in-

since October, but there is idence of larger demand, ads of goods are accumuw cotton is lower, some ices of staples is expected. on that account more w qualities of goods havlined. Print cloths are with enormous stocks. re not in better demand. general indisposition to nents ahead. Sales of weeks 14,278,900 pounds, last year, and 10,852, e this year largely beas the mills find at prespuragement to buy, and are a shade weaker. Quonot changed, though more sions are reported. Failhe week have been 380 in the s, against 333 last year, and in Canada, against fifty-

he Steel Billet Pool.

E. Dec. 14.—The Bessemer on of the United States after a three days' session. orge S. Griscom, the secreout the following statement? conditions existing in the zel trade, no fixed price has aged by the association for be and sheet bars. However, ion continues intact, and feeling was taken with a harng existing among the The Bellaire steel plant is it of the combination.

ed Back to Leadville.

Dec. 14.—Orders have been the return of all members onal guard to Leadville for applies to several hunwho have been at home on taves of absence and said the fact over 200 of them to have joined a company raised in Denver for service recruiting office has been or the past three days and hes have been enrolled.

nd Waman Found Dead. of the Pamuel P. Putnam, the Free Thought con-Sary L. Collins, both are found dead upon the floor ent in St. Botolph street, able Back Bay district The woman was 20 years mam 50. A gas cock in the wide open and the fumes of d been the cause of death.

en of Idaho Will Vote. Dec. 12.—The supreme wn an opinion in which t equal suffrage amendon at the recent election and hereafter women will THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

A recently passed ordinance making It a crime to spit in street cars is being rigidly enforced in Boston. Archbishop Benson's life is to be written, by his son, the author of

'Dodo.' The grand jury of Ford county, Ills., has returned an indictment against Frederick Hartman for the murder of Mrs. Webke Gedde of Drummer town-

Fred Thoromar, an insurance agent, was held up by two footpads in West Union, O., and robbed of \$47. He was beaten with clubs, shot through the thigh, and left for dead. He crawled to a house near by, where he fell un-

The Wisconsin state board of pharmacy has elected H. P. Frank president. Marshall J. Miller was hanged at San Quintin, Cal., for the murder of Joseph Pierre of Marysville.

In one of Boston's busiest thoroughfares there is a sign which reads; "Cole & Wood, Dealers in Wood and Coal."

The explosion of a vulcanizer in the dental rooms of W. M. Schlawig at Sibley, Ia., caused a probably fatal injury to the dentist's wife.

M. J. Foley, a prominent merchant, mysteriously disappeared about ten days ago from the Mondamin hotel, Sioux City, Ia. It is feared he has been George Bryan of Elm Springs, Ark.,

set fire to a fuse in a well and before he reached the top the blast was discharged, blowing his body into atoms.

There are on the several calendars of the house of representatives 1,465 bills to be disposed of. Andrew Souers has filed suit against

charging alienation of the affections of his wife. Both are rich farmers. Felix G. Defontaine, the New York Herald's famous war correspondent.

James Bubaker for \$5,000 damages,

"Personne," is dend. Mrs. Susan Whisehunt, the oldest person in Jefferson county, Ills., died

in her 98th year. L. S. Abbot, an alleged horsethief, and John Hall, an alleged forger, escaped from the county jail at Jasper, Ind., leaving a note telling who furnished them tools. Bloodhounds are after them.

General George W. Beal Dead.

Norway, Me., Dec. 14.-General George W. Beal, member of the board of control of the National Soldiers' home, expension agent, adjutant general of Maine and ex-state treasurer, died at his home here Saturday. General Beal was 71 years of age and had a notable military record as a soldier in the civil

Crooks Sentenced to Prison.

Salina, Kan., Dec. 14.-Andrew Johnson and Edward, or "Denver Red," Manning, well-known crooks, have been sentenced ten years each in the state's prison for highway robbery. Johnson has served five years in the penitentiary for safe-cracking and both have records in the west.

Weyler in Havana.

Havana, Dec. 14.-Captain General Weyler has arrived once more in this city on horseback, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Escribano and others of his staff and by a cavalry escort.

THE MARKETS.

New York Financial.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12. Money on call was easy at 112 per cent.; prime mercantile paper 426 per cent.; sterling exchange was steady, with actual business in bankers' bill at 48614648634 for demand and 48314648694 for sixty days; posted rates, 48414 and 48714; commercial bills, 48214.

United States government bonds strong; 4's United States government bonts strong; vs. registered, 123%; do. coupons, 123%; 5's registered, 1133%; do. coupons, 1133%; 4's registered, 1694%; do. coupons, 1103%; 2's registered, 953%; Pacific 6's of '97, 994%.

Chicago Grain and Produce.

CHICAGO, Dec. 12. Following were the quotations on the Board of Trade today: Wheat—December, opened 76%c, close 1 76%c; May, opened 80%c, closed 80%c; July, opened 25%c, closed 25%c, closed 25%c, closed 25%c, closed 25%c, opened 28%c, closed 25%c, Oats—December, opened 17%c, closed 25%c, Oats—December, opened 25%c, closed 25%c, Oats—December, opened 25%c, observed 25%c, observed 25%c, Oats—December, opened 25%c, observed 25%c, o May, opened 26; closed 25%c. Oats—December, opened 17%c, closed 17c; January, opened nominal, closed 174c; May, opened 26%c, closed 30%c. Pork—December, opened \$6.55, closed \$6.57%; January, opened \$7.61, closed \$7.65, Lard—December, opened nominal, closed \$3.57; January, opened \$3.57; January, opened \$3.57; January, opened \$3.57%. Produce: Butter—Extra creamery, 25c per lb; extra dairy, 19c; fresh packing stock, &69%c. Eggs—Fresh stock, 18c per doz. Poultry—Turkeys, 10%lic per lb; chickens, (hens), 51%6c; spring chickens, 6c; roostra, 4%c, ducks, \$6100%c; ge.se, 76%c. Potatoes—Burbanks, 20%25c per bu; Hebron, 20%25c. Sweet potatoes—filinois, \$1.00%1.25 per bbl. Honey—White clover 10%like per lb; extracted, 5%7c. Apples—Common to fancy, 50c%\$1.50 per bbl.

Chicago Live Stock.

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Live Stock—Prices at the Union Stock yards today ranged as follows: Hogs—Estimated receipts for the day, 16,000; sales ranged at \$2.85,23.45 light, \$4.05,23.15 rough packing, \$3.25,33.45 light, and \$3.20,33.45 heavy packing and shipping lots.

Cattle—Estimated receipts for the day, 500; quotations ranged at \$5.33@5.75 Christmas beeves, \$4.75@5.39 choice to extra shipping steers, \$4.25@4.89 good to choice do, \$4.85@4.35 fair to good, \$3.40@4.10 common to medium do, \$3.10@3.80 butchers steers, \$2.80@3.35@4.00 feeders, \$1.30@3.80, cows, \$2.40@4.15 heifers, \$1.75@3.75 bulls, oxen and stags, \$2.80@4.10 Texas steers, and \$2.75@5.60 veal calves.

Sheep and Lambs—Estimated receipts for the day, 1.000; sales ranged at \$2.35@3.60 western, \$1.50@3.00 Texans, \$1.50@3.75 natives and \$2.25@5.37 lambs.

East Buffalo Live Stock.

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EAST BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 12.

Dunning & Stevens, Live Stock Commission
Merchants, East Buffalo, N. Y., quote as follows:
Cattle—Receipts, 1 car; market dull. Hogs
—Receipts, 30 cars; light grades steady, others 5c casier; Yorkeys, \$3.5614@3.65; light mixed
packers, \$3.46@5.50; heavy and mediums, \$3.40
@3.45; stage and roughs, \$2.25@3.00. Sheep
and Lam's—Receipts, 20 cars; market dull;
shade lower for lambs; sheep 16@25c lower;
top lambs, \$4.90@5.10; culls to choice, \$3.25@
4.75; top mixed sheep, \$3.25@3.40; culls to good,
\$1.75@3,15; common lambs, \$4.50@4.85.

Detroit Grain.

Wheat—Cash white, 91c bid, 914c asked; cash red, 91c bid, 914c asked; December, 91c bid, 914c asked; May, 1974c asked.

Milwaukee Grain.
Milwauken, Dec. 12.
Wheat—No. 2 spring, Tec: No. 1 norteern.
Sc; May, Spic. Corn—No. 3, 22,235c. Oats—
No. 2 white, 18142203c. Barley—No. 2, 834
@34c; samples, 2524. Rye—No. 1, 40,4054c.

OFFERED A SQUARE GAME.

How a Young Lawyer Collected Bills From

Chicago Gamblers. A young attorney just starting out in his profession in Chicago was commissioned to collect a number of bills by a prominent tailor of the town. All these accounts were against gamblers Sque of them had been sued on and judgment had been obtained. These judgments, however, had not been collected. A liberal percentage was offered the lawyer if he could succeed in collecting any of them. The attorney had his own notion as to how to go to work on these accounts and listened to the tailor's advice about "going for them hot" with a dubious smile.

He selected a bill of \$75 for one suit of clothes against a quite noted knight of the green cloth and proceeded to try his plan. Calling on this man, he told him that he had not come to threaten him with a lawsuit or to bluff him; that if the bill was correct he would call at any time the debtor would designate for a part or the whole of the bill; that if the debtor would say he would not pay the bill the lawyer would not call again; that all he asked was a square deal; that he would call only when the debtor made an appointment to pay money, as he did not propose to inaugurate a system of "dunning."

The gambler heard him through with a perfectly impassive face and then said: 'That's fair. The other collectors didn't know their business. They tried to bluff me, and they 'dunned' me. Your game is a square one, and I'll give it a whirl. Here is my eard Call Tuesday, and I will pay you half. Have you got any more bills against the boys?"

On being told of the other accounts he sat down, took a dozen of his cards, wrote across them "O. K.," and said to the attorney, "Hand one of these to each man you go to, tell him your game and

you will get your money. The lawyer did so. In not one single instance was a bill repudiated, and in every case all appointments and agreement to pay were kept with scrupulous fidelity. Every account was finally paid to the last penny, and the tailor wondered at the collection of these, to him, desperate accounts. - San Francisco

MILLIONS OF BUTTONS.

A Man of Figures Makes Some Calcula tions on the Subject.

We live in an age of buttons. The people of the British isles unbutton 400,000,000 buttons every night when they prepare for bed, and next morning rebutton the same number, unless a few millions have been lost in the straggle, says an English writer.

The world has become so accustomed to buttons that it has forgotten that there was ever a time when buttons were unknown. It is safe to say that 99 out of 100, if asked to name the date of the first butten, would anticipate the actual date by several centuries. In the fourteenth century there were buttons, but no buttonholes. They were purely ornamental, lacking buttonholes, and the question voluntarily arises how our ancestors managed to keep respectably covered.

Two hundred years ago there were not as many buttons in the world as could be found in a small old clothes shop today, and even those were made any considerable manufactory was es tablished. In that year the famous Soho works were opened at Birmingham, where steel buttons were made of such beauty and finish as to command a price of £140 a gross, or £1 apiece.

In these modern days we are apt to boast that this is an age of paper, pointing at the same time to paper wheels, paper boots, paper carpets and the thousand and one novel uses made of this material as proof of our assertion. It is a curious fact that as far back as 1784 we find mention of paper buttons.

Flowers Made of Bread.

One of the latest, and certainly most effective, methods of making artificial flowers is the use of fresh bread.

All that is required is a loaf of fresh bread, some wire and a little coloring matter. According to a well known maker of artificial flowers in the west end of London, this novel method is likely to supersede all others. Not only do these bread flowers look exactly like the real article when freshly made, but as the bread grows stale the flowers astume a slightly withered appearance, which is almost identical with that of a flower beginning to fade.

As a rule, ordinary artificial flowers can at once be detected by the unnatarally bright and fresh appearance they present after being in the heated atmosphere of a ballroom or elsewhere for several hours, but the fading power of bread flowers practically insures them against detection, even from the eyes of an expert. -London Answers.

Hanged and Varnished. An English custom of not so long ago was to hang smugglers on gibbets arranged along the coasts and then tar the bodies that they might be preserved a long while as a warning to other culprits. As late as 1822 three men thus varnished could have been seen hanging before Dover castle. Sometimes the process was extended to robbers, assasins, incendiaries and other criminals. John Painter, who fired the dockyard at Portsmouth, was first hanged and then tarred in 1776. From time to time he was given a fresh coat of varnish and hus was made to last nearly 14 years. The weird custom did not stop smuggling or other crime, but no doubt it worked some influence as a preventive. -Pittsburg Dispatch.

The expression used by the prop Joel with regard to the locusts—that 'they darkened the sun' —has often been corroborated by subsequent observers. Even in southern Europe swarms of lo-custs have been seen in such numbers that they quite obscured the light of the CLOTHES IMMORTAL.

fade So For Economizing People by a Gotham Industry.

It's easy to be a well dressed man nowadays. If one saves up his old clothes until he accumulates a few suits and then follows the example of his rich friends here, he will soon find out how they pose as howling swells at comparatively little outlay. It costs only \$25 a year to look like a man who owns a valet, providing one has the costumes to start on. In a skyscraping structure a suit of sumptuous offices is occupied by the clerical staff of a concern which is engaged in keeping the clothes of some of our worthiest and most influential citizens in repair. A large factory down town, employing a small army of scourers, pressers and menders, is kept in constant operation, and the wagons of the company may be seen daily covering regular routes in the best parts of the city. So sensitive are the patrons of the concern, however, lest their economical proclivities become known to neighbors that nothing more than the ambiguous title of the firm is painted on the vehicle.

A lady with a pronounced French accent manages this part of the business. From her it was learned that a yearly subscription fee of \$25, payable in advance, entitles any ordinary American citizen to membership in this concern, by means of which his clothes at least can jostle up against those of the Four Hundred. On paying the fee the members are entitled to all the services required to keep their wardrobe in repair and presentable condition. The chests are allotted to him, upon which his name and address are printed. One of these remains at his home, while the other is at the factory. Wagons call at the houses of patrons of the company twice a week, if necessary and collect the clohes which have been placed in the chest, at the same time leaving a chest full of clothes, carefully mended and pressed ready for wear. One young man who has been a patron of the novel establishment for some time says that it works like a charm, and his apparel bears out his statement. Of course the tailors, the old clothes gatherers and the servants who have strutted in the cast off garments of their masters don't like the innovation, but it is a necessity of the times. Keeping up appearance is a great business here, and this new clothes fixing scheme is a regular boon to lots of men who travel on shape and style. -New York Letter in Pittsburg Dis-

BIRDS OF ILL NATURE.

The Crucity of Swans as Displayed Toward Other Fowls.

Among those birds which stay at home, especially the most domesticated, there is often an exhibition of unkindness seemingly unaccountable, says a writer in The Cornhill Magazine. The graceful swan, e. g., is one of the most the breeding season) does a male bird resent the intrusion of a strange gentleman, but it will spend the day in driving off from its domain any unlucky geese, which might be plainly assumed to have no designs upon its domestic arrangements and have, indeed, no desire beyond that for a comfortable wash and swim. It will also pursue even the most innocent of newborn ducklings while

taste of their common element When an only child has passed out of the eygnet stage of life and grown to full physical if not mental maturity, father and mother swans have been known to fall upon and deliberately beat it to death with wing and beak. The gratified parents swam gracefully about the mere in which they lived, while the great white corpse of their son lay, battered and dead, upon the shore. The following year, after another had been born to them and in infancy carried upon his mother's back, they began to treat him so roughly that, not being pinioned like them, he wisely flew away and we saw him no more. Curiously enough, geese which have experienced rudeness from swans in the lusty spring have been known to retaliate in the calmer autumn, when the fierceness of their enemy had become mitigated. I have seen a gander leap upon the back of a once arrogant swan and pound away at it in the full enjoyment of gratified revenge. - San Francisco Chronicle.

At times of severe frost many per sons not skilled in the use of thermom eters report remarkably low tempera tures. These are often due to the thermometric liquid having partly evaporated from the main column and condensed at the end of the tube farthest from the bulb, the thermometer then reading just as many degrees too low as there are degrees of spirit at the top of the tube. Good thermometers are just as liable to this error as common ones, and therefore every one using a spirit minimum thermometer must be on the alert. Generally the owner can restore the thermometer without sending it back to the maker. Grasp the thermometer firmly, resting a finger on the tube so that there be no vibration, and, holding the bulb downward, give several strong, pendulous swings. This will usually send the spirits from the top and send the index into the bulb. Stand the thermometer bulb downward for an hour, then re verse it and very gently shake the in-dex out of the bulb and let it slide to the end of the column, when the therneter will be as good as new. -- New

Fly Feet. The means by which a fly can cree up a pane of glass or walk on a ceiling have long been the subject of contention among scientists, some claiming that the fly foot is a sucker, others that adciliary apparatus which answers the Highest of all in Leavening Power.-Latest U. S. Gov't Report,

Al Baking Powder ABSOLUTELY PURE

A FAMOUS RECIPE.

How the Hoboken Turtle Club Concocts Its Time Honored Turtle Soup. Good livers will be interested in this

By it 150 pounds of turtle will produce 30 gallons of soup. It is the recipe used by the Hoboken Turtle club for many generations, and the original recipe is now in the hands of the steward of the club:

Take a kettle of 30 gallons capacity and fill nearly full of water. Put in 8 sets of calves' feet (32), well cleaned, and 30 necks of beef. To this add 2 dozen parsley, I dozen leeks, a half peck of small onions and sat and pepper to suit. Boil the whole to rags, about 20

Kill the turtle, scald off the thin outside glazed portion and take off fins. Put the shell, cut up into small pieces, into boiling water until the citron comes off. Then add the turtle meat, also cut in small pieces. To this add the meat of 8 calves' heads which have been sufficiently beiled to remove the skin.

Strain off the stock through a fine sieve. Strain twice out of pot and back again. Now add cirron and boil three hours. Then add turtle rieat and calves' heads and boil the whole until the citron is wholly done.

Add these spices: Quarter pound each of ground allspice, ground cloves, ground mace and ground nutmers, a pound of sweet marjoram and the same of thyme and summer savory, with black and cayenne pepper to taste.

Put the spices into two small salt bags and drop into the pot until satisfactorily seasoned, taking out and putting in again from time to time and occasionally squeezing the bags into the

After adding the turtle meat and calves' heads boil fite hours until all the sour taste is gone. Boil over a slow tire and be sure to keep well stirred to avoid burning.

When cooked and poured into vecsels, let it get perfectly cool before covering up or touching with a spoon. It should assume a gelatinous consistency. Keep at same temperature. Use 2 gallons each of claret, sherry and brandy.

Original recipe in possession of M. P. Phillips, steward Hoboken Turtle club. -New York Herald.

POISONOUS POTATOES.

ungracious in its ways. Not only (in An Atkaloid Called Solanine Does Great Damage Sometimes.

It is not very rare to see serious accidents happen by poisoning from the use of potatoes in places where food is supplied by contract, as in schools, prisons and barracks, and astonishment is expressed that this precions and highly estimated food stuff should be capable of doing so much damage. It is well to know that the potato, even when absoby hand. It was not until 1745 that they unwittingly rejoice in an early lutely sound, contains a certain amount

of a vegetable alkaloid called solanine. The remarkable point is that this solanine is much more abundant in summer than in winter; whereas it amounts to .044 per kilogram from November to February, it reaches the figure of . 233 in July and August. This evil would not be very great if the production of the alkaloid were not still further increased by the process of germination and putrefaction of the potato. The use of potatoes deteriorated in this way may give rise to cases of poiscning characterized by vomiting, diarrhea, fever, dilated pupils, convulsions and profuse sweating.

It is usually in the months of June and July that these accidents occur, at the moment when the potatoes of the preceding year have begun to germinate and rot. The contractors of the above mentioned establishments send these potatoes there, since they have no longer any marketable value, because the new potatoes are already large and reduced in price.

It is therefore necessary to watch these supplies in a most careful manner and to refuse potatoes that show any black or softened spots or that have be gun to germinate. As a general thing potatoes used in eating should be as fresh as possible.—Paris Herald.

Japan and Australia.

An Australian gentleman, Mr. Audley Coote, sends to the Melbourne Argus an account of a recent visit to Japan, in which he says: "I was traveling with a friend of mine who speaks Japanese fluently when he asked me if I could guess what a number of Japanese military and naval officers who were to the car were conversing about. 'It is Australia,' he continued, 'and they are saying that you have a large country, fine pastoral lands, great forests, and in the north excellent land for the cultivation of rice, coffee, tea and other tropical products; that you are like the dog in the manger among nations, and that some one will have to take a good part of Australia to develop it." riend also told me that the officers spoke about it being a great pity to see so fine a country lying waste, and though they recognized that England was a useful nation to have as an ally, still, if ill feeling arose, the policy they ought to pursue was to send several of their battleships down south to annex a large portion of north Australia. These statements I found were only one expression of public opinion in Japan in regard to Australia, and when you conhesion is effected by the aid of a viscous sider the matter it is not surprising that fluid exuding from the foot, and others again that the fly walks by means of a 45,000,000, should regard Australasia, with only 4,000,000, with a certain amount of covetousness."

PICKING CHICKENS TO MUSIC

Queer Customs of the Italian Poultry Dealers of San Francisc

The sailor has his musical shanty to which he keeps time as he trots about the capstan until the anchor is hoisted to the peak, the farmer trills a lay to lighten his labors as he pitches hay into the wagon, and these songs are familiar to many, but who ever heard or saw a gang of Italian chicken pickers sing and denude fowls to the time of the music?

Such a scene can be witnessed any Friday evening in season at the Clay Street market, while the employees of the big poultry houses that have their places of business there are preparing for sale the chickens that the housewife buys for the Sunday dinner.

The men seat themselves in a half circle and each takes a fowl. One stroke of a sharp knife across the throat puts the unfortunate squawking broiler out of its misery, and then the foreman of the gang starts his song. As they catch the air and the time the others chime in, and in an instant the plucking begins. With rhythmic motion the nimble fingers grasp the feathers and pull them out during all the time of the song.

Feathers fly in all directions, but the song goes on until the last pinfenthers are removed and the careasses are torsed into a pile, ready for the man who puts on the finishing touches and prepares them for the inspection of prespective purchasers.

The rapidity with which a chicken is stripped of its feathers is astonishing to the uninitiated who have tried it but a few times, and so adept have these men become that they finish their fowls almost simultaneously, and the process is repeated in unison. Three dozen birds are not considered a heavy night's stork for one man, and when pressed for time they manage to compass even more than

The song they sing is remarkably lively and sweet and much resembles the song of the fishermen as they row their boats, though the time is much factor. -San Francisco Call.

FOOD FOR THE CATS.

English Sparrows Have to Fight For Their Lives In London.

If left to himself, the London sparrow would probably multiply exceedingly, for there is enough waste from every human household to keep at least one pair of sparrows. That would give something like 1,500,000 sparrows to the area of greater London. But these figures do not represent actual facts. The sparrow population is rigorously kept down, not by want of fecundity-for at the zoo, for instance, where food and shelter abound, the birds seem to breed at all seasons of the year-but by the operation of the natural enemy, that great fact in all wild life, which even the progressive London sparrow cannot is the London cat. If any one will count up the number of houses in his or her knowledge which do not possess a cat, the numbers and ubiquity of the natural enemy will become apparent. Poor people keep more cats than rich people, so the small houses abound in cats. Rich folsk' cats which have large houses, as a rule, only catch the sparrows on their own estate, but poor cats have to peach at large, and their ravages among the young sparrows are prodigious. It has been observed that a sparrow killing cat bags on an average two young birds a day. No amount of correction seems to prevent their indulgence in this form of sport. They know it is wrong, but it is too fascinating. One young cat of the writer's acquaintance went into a fit after a mild beating for killing young sparrows, and as soon as he recovered went off to catch another. A cat in the same house which was surprised with two naked nestlings in its mouth slipped them underneath a mat on the stairs when it saw its mistress approaching. Nature is too strong for them, and the drawing room pussy seems no more able to resist the taste for sport than the stable cat.-London Spectator.

Spanish Inefficiency.

Spanish inefficiency has been shown up in a ludicrous way by the recent self floating of the new cruiser Princesa de Asturias at Cadiz. The vessel, which it had taken seven years to build, got stuck in the mud when they tried to launch her over a month ago. After trying their best to float her without success for 30 days the Spanish engineers gave up the job, adopting the usual Micawber policy of Spain of waiting for something to turn up. They were justified by the cruiser's slipping into the water of her own accord one afternoon when no one was watching her.

The Green Cross.

In addition to the Red Cross and the White Cross there has just been established in Vienna a new order, to be known as the Green Cross. Its object is to give succor to Alpine climbers and excursionists in mountain regions. It originated in the Austrian Alpine club. The intention is to establish buts on high mountains and to keep supplies and relief stores or boxes containing articles likely to be required in emergencies at conveniently located points.

Sure Sign.

"Did you come out well on your examinations?

"Didn't I, though! All the professors wanted me for a son-in-law right away!"-Fliegende Blatter.